

★ news release

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### Record Prices Paid at Auction of Fur Seal Skins

Greenville, S. C.: Buyers at an auction of United States sealskins held here in April paid an average of \$101.24 each for the highest quality processed skins. This compares with an average of \$77.81 at last year's auction.

Processed skins from male fur seals average \$116.36, while female skins brought an average of \$89.21 each.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries is responsible for managing the world's largest fur seal herd which returns annually to rookeries on the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea, off the coast of Alaska. The seals are protected under a treaty among the United States, Russia, Japan, and Canada.

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### Asian Goose Seen on Refuge in Kansas

Stafford, Kans.: A lone red-breasted goose, a type of waterfowl that normally nests in Siberia and winters near the Caspian Sea in Asia, was seen twice during the past winter on the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge in Kansas, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife reports.

Known to biologists as Branta ruficollis, the red-breasted is a small goose that normally weighs from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 pounds.

The bird at Quivira could be an escapee from a captive flock or it might have crossed the Bering Sea into Alaska to migrate down the North American Continent, the Department of the Interior agency said.

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### New Treatise on the American Oyster Available

Washington, D. C.: Dr. Paul S. Galtsoff, who devoted some 40 years to shellfish research as a scientist with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, is the author of a treatise which may well become the new standard reference on American oysters (Crassostrea virginica).

The 480-page work, which includes a bibliography and a complete index, is available in a paperback edition for \$2.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402.

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